9:Iyer E-4, 5 (ca. 1902-1906)1912
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771 824 From the *tulsi* are also made rosaries, which, in addition to being [778] an aid to prayers, are also used as ornaments for the neck. [301] Among the trees used for *pújas* or sacrifices are the sandal-[782] wood, the *pldau* (Butea frondosa), the *rudrúksham* (Elæocarpus lanceolatus), the *darbha* (Poa cynosuroides), the *karuka* (Agrostis linearis), the *thumba* (Leucas Indica), *chembarutti* (shoeflower, Hibiscus Rosa sinensis), *erikku* (Calotropis gigantea), *thechi* (Chrysanthemum), and the several species of lotus [278] and jessamine; and of these one and all are extensively used for medicinal purposes.

77 538 Folk tales. The belief in demons and the habit of attributing all that cannot be easily accounted for to supernatural powers, have built up an edifice of folk-tales that would prove of great interest to students of folk-lore, some of which are given below:—

539 [821] The eclipse is ascribed to the devouring of the sun or moon by the huge serpent Ráhu, and while it lasts, a kind of pollution is observed by the people, for during the period of eclipse, food and drink are supposed to acquire poisonous properties.

[775] People who hear stories of Rámáyana, while lying on their beds, will become blades of grass in their next birth.

[821] [825] [823] Will-o'-the-wisps are accounted for, as lights emitted by a kind of precious stone (*mdnikka kallu*) from the mouths of serpents, which, owing to their long life, are believed to have acquired the art of flying. Popular belief is that some serpents have been blowing for ages upon gold, embedded in the strata of the earth, and converting it into precious stones of the nature above mentioned. They keep them in their mouths, and acquire the power of flying in the air, with the stones shining brilliantly when they open their mouths.

825 539 When the crow and the fowl were first created, they were asked which they preferred, personal beauty or long life. The fowl preferred the former, and the crow the latter. Hence it is that the crow is said to possess a long lease of life.

The crow is supposed to possess only one eye, though apparently it has two. One eye-ball is said to move first in one socket, then into the other as necessity requires. The story is connected with a strange myth.